

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 MAY 1984

Gulf War

An unidentified aircraft attacked a Saudi tanker in the Saudi port of Ra's Tannurah on 16 May, setting the ship on fire, the chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company disclosed in remarks reported by KUNA. The Kuwaiti official said he was informed of the incident by cable, but monitored Saudi sources have not yet confirmed the attack. Meanwhile, at its second emergency session in 24 hours, the Kuwaiti Cabinet charged that Iranian aircraft were responsible for the attacks on Kuwaiti tankers on 13 and 14 May, according to KUNA. The Cabinet condemned the attacks, which will be discussed at a meeting of GCC foreign ministers. Earlier, the Kuwaiti National Assembly urged the government to adopt "firm and necessary measures to deal with this serious matter," KUNA noted. In Tehran Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani held Iraq responsible for the recent attacks on Kuwaiti ships but nevertheless reiterated Iran's policy "to act so that other oil-exporting countries would be deprived of oil as much as we would." Speaking after a Supreme Defense Council meeting in a statement reported by IRNA, he confirmed that the Gulf will be "safe for all or for no one." Recognizing the possibility of U.S. military intervention, the Majlis speaker warned that this would prove "very costly" for the United States, while Iran would be able to bear the ensuing consequences.

Lebanon

Israeli forces carried out a "massacre" in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon, killing or wounding about 40 people, arresting 60 others, and blowing up 20 houses, Beirut radio announced on 16 May. Military sources cited by AFP acknowledged that Israeli troops arrested a number of people in the camp but denied that the IDF had opened fire on or killed any of the inhabitants. Earlier, in a statement carried by ITIM, the IDF spokesman said two Israeli soldiers were wounded in an ambush north of the Az-Zahrani River. Both halves of Beirut came under further shelling as fighting continued across the contact lines, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. In the western sector a source from the Army's 6th Brigade cited by Beirut radio announced that the brigade would refrain from responding to shelling of its barracks from East Beirut. Reporting on the situation in eastern Lebanon, AFP disclosed that most of the Iranian Revolution Guards have left Ba'labakk after Syria requested their departure and are waiting to leave Lebanon.

Jordan

Prime minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, in a statement to the House of Representatives broadcast by Amman radio, said the security forces are being obliged to take action to prevent acts of sabotage organized by "terrorist organizations" that have recruited Jordanian students abroad. Recent assassination and sabotage attempts against Jordanian diplomats abroad and British targets in Jordan were perpetrated by students belonging to extremist

organizations, he said. The groups working against Jordan include resistance factions like the Fatah dissidents and Islamic fundamentalists like the Al-Jihad organization and another group sponsored by the Iranian Embassy, he revealed. He defended the imposition of permits for travel to Syria as a measure that has saved Jordan "70-80 percent of the troubles," but noted that incidents or operations aimed at undermining security are still occurring "every week."

Jewish Conference in Morocco

The Syrian parliament denounced the convening of the "Zionist" conference by the Moroccan Government as "new treason" no less serious than that committed by former Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, and the speaker called on Arab parliaments to urge their governments to take appropriate "deterrent measures" against these "treacherous activities," Damascus television reported. A commentary broadcast by Damascus radio described Morocco's reception of the Israeli delegation as part of the "policy of normalization" between Morocco and Israel and a "direct advancement of Camp David," and declared that Arab governments must "assume their responsibilities" toward this "serious action."

"Authoritative sources" cited by the Israeli newspaper *HA'ARETZ* claimed that representatives of Fatah, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan had tacitly agreed to the holding of the conference with Israeli participation. A commentary broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio described the Rabat conference as a new attempt at normalization between Israel and another Arab country. The commentary asserted that in holding the conference Morocco disregarded the feelings of the Arab masses, particularly the Palestinians, and helped to create more Arab differences and discord.

PLO Affairs

The second round of intra-Palestinian talks has begun in Algiers, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. Representatives of Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party are participating, the radio added.

Sudan

President Ja'far Numayri issued a decree appointing General 'Ali Yasin minister of internal affairs, replacing Major General Kamal Hasan Ahmad, SUNA announced. The latter was relieved following reports linking him with attempts to "influence the course of justice," the agency disclosed. A "responsible source" in the Armed Forces cited by SUNA claimed that stability and peace had been achieved in the southern part of Sudan with the sealing off of all infiltration routes used by "outlaws and saboteurs" based in Ethiopia who are trained and financed by Libya.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS****South Asia**

Vol VIII No 096

16 May 1984

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i**AFGHANISTAN**

Karmal Discusses Organization of Self-Defense Units	C 1
AFP: Mujahidin Inflict Heavy Losses Near Panjsher	C 2
Guerrillas To Undergo Tests for Gas Poisoning	C 2
Briefs: Karmal Receives Ambassadors	C 2

INDIA

Gandhi Discusses Punjab Situation, Sri Lanka	E 1
Curfew Extended in Jullundur; Situation 'Peaceful'	E 1
Amritsar Akali Leaders Meet	E 1
Sikh Student Leader Arrested	E 1
Soviet Cosmonauts Receive 'Touching Sendoff'	E 1
Assam District of Nowgong Declared Epidemic Area	E 1
39 Die in West Bengal	E 1

PAKISTAN

Reportage on Visit by Vice President Bush	F 1
Arrival Welcome by Zia	F 1
Meeting With Zia	F 1
2-Hour Formal Talks	F 1
Previsit Commentary [MASHRIQ 7 May]	F 1
'Outlaws' Ambush Police Officer's Car, Killing 3	F 1
Economic Relations With Turkey Assessed [DAWN 11 May]	F 2
Briefs: Netherlands Assistance	F 2
Oil Discovered	
Outgoing Indonesian Ambassador	

OTHER COUNTRIES**BANGLADESH**

Opposition Calls for Demonstrations 19 May [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES 15 May]	G 1
--	-----

NEPAL

Briefs: Gastroenteritis Deaths	G 1
--------------------------------------	-----

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali Announces U.S. Couple Freed in Jaffna	G 1
Handover of Militants Requested	G 2
President Jayewardene Meets With U.S. Couple	G 2

IRAN

Majlis Speaker: Iraq's Weapons Suppliers Create Crisis	I 1
Iraq Blamed for Attacks	I 1
Imperialism's Gulf 'Plots' Scored	I 2
Friday Imams Congress Participants Visit Base, Abadan	I 3

Khomeyni Discusses Economic Issues, Elections	1	3
Urges Support for Council	1	3
Condemns Usurious Banking Practices	1	4
Prime Minister Musavi on Freeing Regional Peoples	1	5
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,727	1	6
Gendarmerie Commander Inspects Units in Bushehr	1	6
Commander Tours Dashti District	1	6
Kuchakzede Assesses Visit	1	7
Troops' Departure for War Fronts Announced	1	7
Youth Forces Dispatched	1	7
Operations by 'Revolutionaries' in Iraq Portrayed	1	7

Karmal Discusses Organization of Self-Defense Units

LD151224 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
14 May 84

[Text] A routine session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo has been chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The Politburo discussed questions regarding the maintenance of security in industrial and agricultural establishments, factories, and state departments. It approved the organization of self-defense groups in these establishments. The bill on self-defense groups was approved by the session according to which self-defense groups in the state and mixed industrial and agricultural establishments will be formed to defend these areas with arms and to maintain security against subversive and murderous bands. Self-defense groups are being created under the leadership of the DRA trade unions and in state departments and establishments on a voluntary basis by the workers and staff.

The formation of self-defense groups is another important step toward maintaining the security and armed defense of the public property. The self-defense groups are a part of the security system in the country which is being created throughout the country as a broad network.

The Politburo comprehensively discussed matters relating to the consolidation of revolutionary sovereignty, state sovereignty, and the consolidation of the unity of the party and the people, the consolidation of the Armed Forces and the raising of its combat readiness level, the consolidation of organic unity within the party, and the strengthening of party and state discipline and performance.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, then assessed the work and struggle of the party during the year which has elapsed and gave an all-round assessment to related matters and the consolidation of state sovereignty throughout the country, close contact with the masses of the people, including political training work and ideological and serious propaganda work among them, as well as the consolidation of organic unity between the party and people as a necessary condition for the expansion and strengthening of the social pillars of revolution. He gave heavy emphasis to the further strengthening and consolidation of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan as a nonaligned country for the purpose of defending peace and security, national freedom and independence, and the gains of the April Revolution.

Babrak Karmal said: The people ought to realize the policy of the party and state in all areas; the party as the pillar of the masses ought to be expanded and broadened among the people; and all active forces of the party, state, the National Fatherland Front, and social organizations must be coordinated for work among the people. In order to do this, of course, it is necessary to utilize modern methods of work among the people; the possibilities of all existing energies and forces should be quite properly organized. All the people should realize that the party and revolutionary state are defending their interests and are serving

them. The people have to recognize their interests, which are one with the interests of the revolution; the masses of millions of peasants have to be consistently assisted; and the peasants must, by directly participating in the process of eliminating the counterrevolution in order to facilitate democratic land reform, consider themselves partners with common interests in maintaining security and the consolidation of state power.

In order to realize this, revolutionary patriotic spirit and great revolutionary zeal and fervor must be deeply strengthened and developed in all militant forces of the country and foremost in party members; with readiness for every commitment, sacrifice and manly courage for taking revolutionary measures [word indistinct] the fight against the counterrevolutionary criminal bands must move forward without fear, working tools in one hand and rifle in the other.

Babrak Karmal said: In revolutionary work and the fight against the counterrevolutionaries, internal and external enemies should remember the courageous deeds of our own forefathers and the deeds of revolutionary heroes who have arisen in other countries during the revolutionary process and have created epics. Babrak Karmal said that it is not enough to be heroic for one day and accomplish a heroic deed once; it is necessary to display heroism in daily work and struggle. Peace and complete security in the country ought to be maintained as soon as possible.

The Politburo — under conditions wherein reaction in the region, international imperialism, headed by the criminal U.S. imperialism, the Pakistani militarist regime, and the reactionaries in Iran have imposed an undeclared war against our country — considers the question of strengthening the ranks of the country's Armed Forces and the heightening of the level of its combat readiness to be among the tasks which should be consistently in the daily and profound attention of the party and state.

The heroic Armed Forces of the country, according to the statement of Babrak Karmal, is a cutting sword in the hands of the party and revolutionary state to use for the complete crushing of armed counterrevolutionaries; and for the reliable defense of the freedom of the people, national independence of the country and the defense of the gains of the new order in the country. The Politburo seriously considers it its duty to accomplish revolutionary tasks towards the consolidation of the counterrevolution, and strengthen and consolidate the heroic Armed Forces of the country under the healthy leadership of the state, people, and society through a party that is strong from the ideological and practical point of view, has passed the test of time, and has maintained its organic internal unity from an organizational point of view. Such a party is the PDPA, which as a ruling party develops qualitatively and quantitatively as a leading force of the society, state, and people. New forces from among the people rally around it every day. In this regard, Babrak Karmal stated that our party is a great force and must be strengthened. This matter depends on the organizational power, ideological maturity, and especially on the consolidation of its internal unity. The organic unity of our party and the unmasking of those with factional tendencies could be completed with all-round consistent work, and first of all as a result of a decisive struggle against the vestiges of factionalism inside the party and its uprooting. The social pillars of the party, state and revolution ought to be further

expanded throughout the country among the broad masses of the people.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo is determined to consolidate discipline in all ranks of the party from top to bottom for the purpose of enhancing the organizational and leading role of the party and the consolidation of its internal unity and organizational strength. The observation of steel-like party discipline will be demanded from everyone, no matter at what rank and authority, and the level of responsibility and investigation will be raised more than ever before; resolute struggle will be waged against factional tendencies. No tolerance will be displayed towards saboteurs and factionalists under the spirit of new phase of improving performance.

The party Central Committee and its Politburo as the leading authority of the party is looking with open eyes at the events and is acting in a united and coordinated manner, aware and firmly like a steel fist. Babrak Karmal also pointed out that since the U.S. imperialism and the Chinese hegemonism do not want the situation around Afghanistan to be solved by peaceful and political means, we therefore ought to be vigilant and ready and ought to take all-round measures. In solving the situations around Afghanistan through direct political negotiations, we are making our efforts. The Politburo will take up specific measures concerning the matters which were stated and will put them into practice.

In the Politburo session a number of internal and international matters were also discussed.

AFP: Mujahidin Inflict Heavy Losses Near Panjsher

BK151420 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Islamabad, May 15 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan forces have suffered heavy losses in their attempts to take control of small valleys next to the Panjsher region, where Afghan resistance fighters have taken refuge, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

At least 500 dead and wounded Soviet troops had been evacuated to Kabul in the past ten days from the Panjsher valley north of the capital, where Soviet forces launched their seventh major offensive three weeks ago, they added. Some 40 Afghan troops were being buried daily in Kabul's Martyrs' Cemetery, they added, quoting reports from their embassies in Kabul.

Military ambulances visited the airport daily to pick up new batches of wounded, and the hospitals had become so short of blood and plasma that Afghan troops based at Qarghah, near Kabul, had been called on for donations. Wounded Soviet troops were also being taken to the airbase at Bagram, halfway between Kabul and Panjsher, to be flown directly to the Soviet Union for treatment, the diplomatic sources said.

An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Soviet troops, supported by 1,000 to 2,000 Afghan soldiers, are involved in the Panjsher offensive, the largest attack on the mujahidin since Soviet troops entered Afghanistan four years ago, Western military experts said here.

The Soviet forces completed the first phase on [words indistinct] three-quarters of the Panjsher valley, in 10 days, and had started the current second phase on May 2, diplomatic sources said. This involved taking mujahidin positions in neighbouring valleys, to cut their links with the rest of the country and Pakistan, and ousting the resistance fighters from hills overlooking the north of the valley.

Meanwhile, in answer to an appeal for a counter-offensive launched in Pakistan by resistance leaders, the mujahidin had attacked Soviet-Afghan posts on the road linking Kabul to the Soviet border and other military bases. They had attacked the Afghan military headquarters in Charikar, capital of Parwan Province, on May 5, the sources added. Two days later, Soviet aircraft bombed the town, killing 50 to 80 civilians.

They had also maintained an increased level of activity in Kabul, the diplomatic sources added.

Guerrillas To Undergo Tests for Gas Poisoning

BK161049 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Islamabad, May 16 (AFP) — Two Afghan guerrillas are to undergo medical tests today in Peshawar, northern Pakistan, to determine whether skin infections from which they are suffering were caused by gas reportedly used by Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

An Afghan guerrilla spokesman said the two men, Mohammad Abdul Raqueeb and Mohammad Asif, had spent two days in the Panjsher valley, north of Kabul, following the recent Soviet offensive against guerrilla positions. The spokesman quoted the men as saying that vegetation in the valley was "yellow" and rotting. During their return journey to Pakistan, which took about 10 days, the men's hands and faces became covered in spots accompanied by severe itching.

Afghan guerrillas said two weeks ago that the Soviet Union was using gas during its Panjsher offensive. Western military experts here said that the description given by the two men implied that some kind of defoliant had been used but not napalm.

Briefs

Karmal Receives Ambassadors — Kabul, May 12, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA today received Kang Hui Sun, ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Khamta Douangthongla, non-resident ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, for receiving minister of foreign affairs credentials. During the meeting Shah Mohammad Dost, foreign affairs minister of the DRA, Mohammad Anwar Farzam, secretary of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, and Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy foreign affairs minister of the DRA, were also present. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0428 GMT 13 May 84 LD]

Gandhi Discusses Punjab Situation, Sri Lanka*BK160919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
16 May 84*

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has appealed to all sections of the people to rise above party lines and cooperate with the government in establishing peace in Punjab. In an interview with an English weekly published from Bombay, she said the government had tried to evolve a consensus on Punjab by associating the opposition leaders in the discussions. Mrs Gandhi said most of the original religious demands of the Akalis have been conceded. Other issues, including the territorial dispute, can be settled only with the concurrence of all concerned.

Referring to the developments in Sri Lanka, Mrs Gandhi said India has always condemned terrorism and secessionist movements. She felt the Sri Lanka Government alone could find a solution to the problem by talking to all concerned. The prime minister said India offered good offices for a solution to the problem and get the talks going.

Curfew Extended in Jullundur; Situation 'Peaceful'*BK151603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
15 May 84*

[Text] The situation in Jullundur continues to be peaceful and under control. Today the curfew was relaxed for 1 hour in the morning and 2 hours in the evening. The curfew has been extended up to 0600 to Thursday with relaxation for 2 hours tomorrow from 0600 to 0800 in the morning.

Amritsar Akali Leaders Meet*BK160524 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
6 May 84*

[Text] Two persons were injured when they were fired upon by two unidentified miscreants on (Gharala Sali) Road in Gurdaspur District last night. While one of the victims was going on a scooter along with his wife, the other injured is reported to be a cyclist. Meanwhile, the curfew in Jullundur has been further extended till tomorrow morning.

In Chandigarh, two unidentified miscreants intruded into the Congress Bhavan, the headquarters of the Punjab Congress-I, last night. According to a spokesman of the Youth Congress-I, the intruders who were moving under suspicious circumstances were challenged by the bodyguard of a Congress leader. The bodyguard fired on the fleeing intruders but none was injured. The inspector general of Chandigarh police along with other senior officials reached the spot. He told our All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent that a police picket has been posted at the Bhavan as a precautionary measure.

In Haryana, the police arrested about 60 persons who were members of an unruly mob indulging in stone throwing in Rohtak yesterday.

Top-ranking Akali leaders met in Amritsar yesterday and reviewed the current situation in the state. This was their first

meeting after the Akali leaders were released from jails. They were arrested in February for showing disrespect to the Constitution.

Sikh Student Leader Arrested*BK160528 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
16 May 84*

[Text] In Rajasthan, police have arrested nine alleged extremists and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from a sarai [inn] situated in a religious complex at Ganga Nagar. According to official information reaching Jaipur, those arrested include Rachpal Singh, leader of the banned All India Sikh Students Federation. The arms and ammunition recovered included two high explosives and grenades, similar to the one hurled at a cinema hall on Sunday last, killing three persons.

Soviet Cosmonauts Receive 'Touching Sendoff'*BK151415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 15 May 84*

[Text] The Soviet cosmonauts were given a touching sendoff when they left New Delhi for Moscow after a 10-day visit to India. Earlier, in an interview with the news agency, the four Soviet cosmonauts of the Indo-Soviet space flight gave an indication that the Soviet Union is willing to assist India in setting up a cosmonaut training center. A member of the backup crew said that the Soviet Union has gained a lot of experience in this connection and is now ready to share its experience with India.

Assam District of Nowgong Declared Epidemic Area*BK140456 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
14 May 84*

[Text] In Assam, Nowgong has been declared an epidemic area following the outbreak of enteric diseases, which has so far claimed 33 lives in the district. With this the death toll in the state due to dysentery and gastroenteritis has gone up to 92. Cachar and Dhubri Districts were declared epidemic areas earlier. After an intensive tour of some of the affected areas, the state health secretary, Mr Bora, said in Gauhati that control rooms have been set up in every district and subdivisions for speedy deployment of medical staff to check the spread of the disease. Medical and paramedical teams have been rushed to the affected areas.

39 Die in West Bengal*OW151946 Hong Kong AFP in English 1938 GMT 15 May 84*

[Text] New Delhi, May 15 (AFP) — Bacillary dysentery and allied enteric disease have claimed 39 lives in West Bengal State in the past 24 hours, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported. About 1,759 have been killed by the diseases in the state so far. A total of 54,931 people were affected since the diseases hit the state in early March, including 2,007 reported today.

Reportage on Visit by Vice President Bush

Arrival Welcome by Zia

*BK151618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
15 May 84*

[Excerpt] U.S. Vice President George Bush was accorded a very warm welcome on his arrival in Islamabad this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Begum Mohammad Ziaul Haq welcomed the vice president and Mrs Bush at the airport. Mr Bush, in a statement, reiterated on behalf of President Reagan and the American people that his country supports a strong, stable, and independent Pakistan so it can live in peace with its neighbors. He said: The United States shares with Pakistan an enduring commitment to security and stability in this region. We hope to continue cooperating with Pakistan in its efforts on behalf of its security and socioeconomic progress.

The U.S. vice president said he has come to Pakistan to know the views of this country's leaders and exchange views with them on various matters of mutual interest. He said he is looking forward to talks with President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and other high officials. He said he will also visit an Afghan refugee village in Peshawar and collect more information about the Afghan people's freedom struggle.

Mr Bush expressed the hope that his visit will create greater understanding and further strengthen the existing strong ties between the two countries. Mr Bush is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including White House and State Department officials. The distinguished guest was given a 19-gun salute, and three Armed Forces contingents presented a guard of honor.

Meeting With Zia

*BK160408 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
16 May 84*

[Text] George Bush met with the president in Rawalpindi yesterday evening and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest with him. Federal Ministers Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and Mahmood A. Haroon, Vice Chief of Army Staff K.M. Arif, and U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Deane R. Hinton were also present on the occasion. Following the meeting, the president hosted a private dinner in honor of the distinguished guest. The president will host a banquet in honor of the U.S. vice president tonight.

2-Hour Formal Talks

*BK161037 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
16 May 84*

[Text] Formal talks between President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the American vice president, Mr George Bush, were held in Murree today. The talks lasted over 2 hours. The president was assisted, among others, by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; the finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan; the minister for interior, Mr Mahmood Haroon; the vice chief of

army staff, General K.M. Arif; the Pakistan ambassador to the United States, the foreign secretary, and other senior officials. The American vice president was assisted by his chief of staff, Retired Admiral Daniel Murphy; the assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, Mr Richard Murphy; the assistant to the U.S. vice president for national security, Mr Donald P. Gregg; special assistant to the USA president, Mr Geoffrey Kemp; the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan; and senior officials.

Before the talks began, the American vice president delivered a message of President Reagan to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Earlier, on arrival in Murree from Islamabad, Mr George Bush was given a grand welcome. He was greeted by thousands of people all along the route from Islamabad to Murree. They included flag-waving children who showered flower petals on Mr George Bush as he drove past them.

Previsit Commentary

GF121517 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 7 May 84 p 3

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush, who is due to pay a visit to Pakistan 15-18 May, in a press interview with correspondents said that the domestic political situation in Pakistan has in no way affected relations between the United States and Pakistan and that he was not going to discuss Pakistan's domestic situation during his coming visit to Pakistan. He added that from his long diplomatic experience he has learned that no country tolerates foreign interference in its domestic affairs. He also said that in New Delhi he would try to explain to Mrs Indira Gandhi that the sale of modern arms to Pakistan did not mean that Pakistan was being armed to fight against any country. Mr Bush also dismissed a Senate staffer's recommendation that the United States consult India before selling arms to Pakistan.

The abovementioned explanations are satisfactory from the point of view of Pakistan. The United States has nothing to do with our internal political situation and there is no justification for doing so. Unfortunately, there are political elements which are putting pressure on the United States to link its aid to its political aims. But in fact, they are inviting foreign intervention in their own affairs. Similarly, there is no justification for India's concern about the sale of U.S. arms to Pakistan. George Bush without mincing words has removed doubts and misgivings which existed in respect to many other political problems. This attitude will also help in fulfilling those hopes which are more often than not referred to whenever this region comes under discussion. There is no doubt that the explanations given by the U.S. vice president in time will remove many of the existing misgivings.

'Outlaws' Ambush Police Officer's Car, Killing 3

BK160136 Hong Kong AFP in English 0116 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, May 16 (AFP) — Three policemen were killed when outlaws ambushed the car of police Inspector-General Bashir Siddiqui on the Indus highway about 350 kms (220 miles) north of here, police sources said Tuesday.

Inspector Siddiqui, who was leading a contingent pursuing dacoits (outlaws) who had kidnapped two district administration officials, escaped unhurt, but three of his bodyguards were killed and another policeman was injured.

Meanwhile, another police squad rescued the kidnapped officials after a gun battle in the jungle.

Economic Relations With Turkey Assessed

GF131811 Karachi DAWN in English 11 May 84 p 17

[Editorial: "Friendship With Turkey"]

[Text] The two working groups set up by the Pakistan-Turkey joint commission which is holding its fifth session in Islamabad this week should smooth the way for greater economic cooperation between the two countries. These groups should be able to identify the areas in which cooperation can be expanded by pooling together the technological knowledge and resources of the two countries. The working group on trade is expected to formulate proposals for stepping up commercial exchanges between Turkey and Pakistan, while placing trade on a balanced footing.

These moves to step up economic ties between the two states are of significance because considerable scope exists for expanding economic cooperation. Both countries have a stronger technological base than other Middle East nations. Their industrial development has also reached a level where they can enter into joint ventures on a basis of mutual benefit. It is encouraging to note that the two countries have already taken measures which should help promote ties. The joint commission set up in 1975 has been meeting fairly regularly after an initial period of inactivity. In addition, a Pakistan-Turkish business committee comprising 60 businessmen was also formed a few months ago to facilitate trade contacts between the two countries.

In the past, the absence of some basic facilities such as shipping, telecommunications, and banking has proved to be a major obstacle in the way of progress in trade. But last year a regular maritime cargo service was established between the two countries. A Pakistani bank was allowed to open a branch in Istanbul and telecommunications, telegraph, and postal services have been reorganised. It remains to be seen what impact these measures have on Pakistan-Turkey trade, which is at present rather limited. Amounting to 36 million dollars in 1982-83, the trade balance has tilted heavily against Islamabad. Negotiations have also been initiated on a treaty on the avoidance of double taxation, which is necessary if businessmen are to set up joint ventures. A move in the direction of promoting such ventures has already been made and a Pakistani firm and a Turkish construction company have set up a joint consultancy service to undertake engineering and feasibility studies in the Middle East. Previously, the two countries have collaborated on projects for production of ball bearings, gearboxes, and security printing paper.

The economic ties which bind the two countries are based not on the mutuality of interests alone, though that is a major factor. Of equal importance are the historical bonds of religion, culture and shared experience between the two nations which provide a firm basis for cooperation. Also vital are the mutual trust and confidence which have reinforced the political ties between the two countries. The Turkish prime minister who will be arriving in Islamabad today on a 4-day visit should help consolidate bilateral ties. As an elected political leader of a country that has been under martial law for over three years, Mr Ozal's standing is somewhat different from the other Turkish leaders who have visited this country. It points to the political, economic and cultural bonds between the two countries that exchange of visits at the highest level between them have been frequent and marked with warmth and cordiality. Since 1981, when President Ziaul Haq paid his first official visit to Ankara, he has visited that country thrice, the last being in September 1983. President Evren came to Pakistan in November 1981. Moreover, contacts at the ministerial level have been even more frequent. Such visits have created a rapport between the leaders of the two countries. Their negotiations have helped them formulate identical positions on important international issues of special relevance to them such as Afghanistan, the Gulf war and the Middle East. Mr Ozal's visit should also give a fillip to bilateral ties between Turkey and Pakistan.

Briefs

Netherlands Assistance — The Netherlands will grant an assistance of 120 million rupees to Pakistan for a sewage disposal project in Quetta. The Netherlands will also provide through UNICEF a sum of \$7 million for a rural water supply scheme in Baluchistan. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 May 84 BK]

Oil Discovered — The Oil and Gas Development Corporation has discovered oil at Tando Alam, about 20 km southeast of Hyderabad. The minister of state for petroleum and natural resources, Dr M. Asad Khan, told newsmen in Islamabad today that over the last 8 months, oil and gas have been discovered at five places, which is a significant achievement. In reply to a question, he said the indigenous production of oil has gone up to over 15,400 barrels per day. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 14 May 84 BK]

Outgoing Indonesian Ambassador — The outgoing ambassador of Indonesia, Mr Fawzi Abdulrani, made a farewell call on the president and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. The foreign secretary was also present on the occasion. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 May 84 BK]

BANGLADESH

Opposition Calls for Demonstrations 19 May
GF151113 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English
 15 May 84 p 28

[By correspondent]

[Excerpt] Dhaka — The 15-party opposition alliance headed by Awami League has rejected the election schedule announced by President H.M. Ershad on Saturday and called for countrywide protest rallies and processions on May 19.

The alliance, which is opposed to the presidential system of government, once again called upon the government to hold parliamentary elections first and summon the parliament before the presidential polls.

The alliance, in a meeting presided over by Awami League chief Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wazed, pressed for withdrawal of martial law immediately. It differed with President Ershad's stand that there would be a power vacuum if the martial law was withdrawn now.

President Ershad announced on Saturday that parliamentary elections would be held next winter and the presidential polls would take place on the basis of the 1982 constitution he suspended at the time of the military takeover, in consultation with political parties. He also said that martial law would be lifted the day parliament went into session.

The alliance stated that the five-point demand was formulated to end the prevailing political crisis, and keeping that in mind it participated in the dialogue with the president. The alliance however, regretted that the government had not taken into consideration the basic demands of the political parties, and on the contrary it proceeded with its own political objective.

"The situation will lead the nation to a state of confrontation," the alliance said, calling upon the people to remain united against the "evil designs of the martial law government."

The other opposition alliance, headed by Begum Khaleda Zia, is yet to give its reaction on the president's announcement.

Begum Zia, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and leader of the opposition combine, told a public meeting in the coastal district of Bhola on Sunday: "I have not listened to his speech."

NEPAL

Briefs

Gastroenteritis Deaths — Katmandu, May 12 (AFP) — At least 70 people have died of gastroenteritis in the past two weeks in two villages of Achham District, 260 kilometres (160 miles) west of Katmandu, a national legislator has said here. National Panchayat member Devendra Bahadur Shaha also requested

that a medical team be dispatched to the villages, Dhunga Chalna and Panchadewa Binayak, to control the disease, as he said it had begun to spread to other areas. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 12 May 84 BK]

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali Announces U.S. Couple Freed in Jaffna
BK160452 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0132 GMT
 16 May 84

[Text] The kidnapped American couple, Mr and Mrs Allen, has been released. This was conveyed with a feeling of satisfaction by the Sri Lankan national security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, at a news conference last night. The minister said that according to information received, the Allen couple was set free between 2015 and 2030 last night by two terrorists at the Jaffna Bishop's House where a representative of the American Embassy met them. Athulathmudali said that the bishop handed them over to the police, and they will probably be brought to Colombo by plane this morning. They are in good condition.

The minister said that two terrorists accompanied them through the gates of the Bishop's House while some terrorists stood outside. The Sri Lankan Government is happy with the final outcome of this unfortunate incident. The minister believes that what happened is a victory of world opinion and nonviolence. The intentions of the terrorists have been exposed and they have been defeated. Now the entire world knows that the supporters of a separate Tamil state are either kidnappers or thieves or linked with such activities or supporters of such activities. The measures adopted by the Sri Lankan Government to mobilize world opinion have been successful. Athulathmudali would like to commend the people of several countries, particularly the United States and India, who cooperated in this matter. The governments, particularly the Indian Government, cooperated; the cooperation of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, Indian High Commissioner Chatwal, and American Ambassador John Reed was received. Athulathmudali said that we appreciate this cooperation and that we should focus attention to the fact that the kidnappings, murders, and thefts are mostly encouraged by terrorist elements now staying in Tamil Nadu. If there had earlier been doubts in this regard, there should be no doubt now because the terrorist leaders of Tamil Nadu ordered the kidnapping of the American couple and their release as well. They are still being given the freedom to engage in such criminal activities against a friendly country like Sri Lanka. We are asking the authorities in Tamil Nadu to end this situation. The crimes against the Allen family and the two Tamil policemen were committed by people now staying in Tamil Nadu. They should be handed over to the authorities so that justice can be served.

The release of hostages took place without any conditions on Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has always opposed the granting of concessions. All that has been said was done so in a spirit of humanity. Athulathmudali desired to make it clear that they would not allow terrorism to win. They would allow no concessions for such blackmail. The kidnappers should know that they will receive not even a fragment of a concession. That the terrorists had to request

that the Army not encircle them shows how the law and order machinery has been successful in last few weeks.

Athulathmudali said yesterday morning that the Army will not attempt to capture them; we have honored our pledge. He thanked the newspapers and other communications media that cooperated in this regard. The minister hoped and prayed that Sri Lanka would not again have to face such an incident. The Buddha Purnima festival began with the threat of two murders and ended in an unexpected manner with the release of the two persons. Our prayers and worship have probably been successful.

Athulathmudali stressed that those who provide shelter and funds for the separatist organization should think over the crisis faced by the Allen family. The funds given to separatists were used for holding the Allen family captive for 5 days. The minister questioned whether these funds should have been given for such improper purposes.

Handover of Militants Requested

BK160233 Hong Kong AFP in English 0216 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Colombo, May 16 (AFP) — Sri Lanka has called on authorities in India's Tamil Nadu State to hand over separatist militants there who Colombo says were behind the kidnap of an American couple released unharmed last night. The call was made by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who hailed the release of Stanley and Mary Allen as a triumph of world opinion over terrorism.

The Allens, held for five days by militants demanding two million dollars in gold and freedom for 20 jailed colleagues, were released in a church in the northern district of Jaffna last night.

Mr. Athulathmudali told a late-night press briefing that the Sri Lankan Government never even considered paying the ransom to free Mr. Allen, 36, and his 29-year-old wife. He said the couple, who lived in Jaffna while Mr. Allen worked on a U.S.-funded water management project, were handed to police by the Jaffna bishop in the presence of an American Embassy official. They were both unharmed and will be flown to Colombo today if weather permits, he said.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary [Liberation] Movement (EPRLF), a Tamil separatist group, claimed responsibility for kidnapping the Americans from their Jaffna home on Thursday.

They had threatened to kill the hostages but let two deadlines for compliance with their demands pass before finally releasing the couple.

Mr. Athulathmudali said "there is no doubt" the abduction was organized by militants in India's Tamil Nadu State across the

Palk Strait, which was the original Tamil homeland. "It was the terrorists in Tamil Nadu who organised the kidnapping of the Allens and then ordered their release," the minister said. He asked the Tamil Nadu Government to hand over those responsible for such acts of terrorism to be dealt with under the law.

The Tamils are a minority in Sri Lanka and claim discrimination at the hands of the Sinhalese majority. Tensions exploded last July when some 400 people, mostly Tamils, were killed in an orgy of racial violence.

Some members of the Sri Lankan Government have been critical of what they call India's support for Tamil separatist militants. Colombo has asked for an investigation of reports that militants were receiving military training in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Athulathmudali said his government was pleased with the outcome of the kidnap drama, which he called a "triumph of world public opinion for the cause of nonviolence. The terrorists have been exposed and have suffered a crushing defeat. "The whole world now knows that those who pass off as Eelam (Tamil homeland) supporters are either kidnappers, murders and thieves or have connections with them or are in sympathy with such acts," he said.

Mr. Athulathmudali said he wanted to make it clear that the Government of Sri Lanka would not stand for terrorism and blackmail and would not make the least concession. He expressed his appreciation for the support demonstrated by India and the United States, particularly Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and M.G. Ramachandran, chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

President Jayewardene Meets With U.S. Couple

BK161107 Colombo International Service in English 1054 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpts] The kidnapped American couple, Stanley and Mary Allen, who were released in Jaffna last night, arrived in Colombo this morning.

Shortly before noon, Mr and Mrs Allen had a cordial discussion with the president and Mrs Jayewardene at President's House. They were escorted by the American ambassador, John H. Reed, and officials of the American Embassy. Present on the occasion were the prime minister, R. Premadasa; the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, and Mrs Athulathmudali; the minister of foreign affairs, A.C.S. Hameed; the minister of state, Dr Anandatissa de Alwis; and the minister of youth affairs, employment, and education, Ranil Wickremasinghe.

Our special correspondent said that the American couple appeared to have been treated well.

Majlis Speaker: Iraq's Weapons Suppliers Create Crisis
LD151931 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Tehran May 15 IRNA — The Supreme Defence Council (SDC) met here this evening in order to study the status of the Iraqi imposed war. The meeting was chaired by President 'Ali Khamene'i and attended by other members of the SDC.

After the session, the imam's representative at the SDC and the spokesman of the Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, spoke to reporters on the issues raised in the meeting. He said the situation in the battlefronts was studied and decisions were made on distribution of the war budget which he said has been delegated to the SDC according to the law. Rafsanjani said the subject matter of the discussions, however, was the new situation created in the Persian Gulf region regarding the hitting of oil tankers and ships by Iraq. He said in the view of the Islamic Republic this was a new development in the trend of the war and it was quite a new phase on which too, the necessary decisions were taken.

From the viewpoint of the SDC, he said, this was an official conspiracy being hatched with the collaboration of Iraq and its supporters, i.e. the U.S., France and regional reaction. Its purpose, the speaker said, was to pressure the Islamic Republic, prevent oil export and create economic bottlenecks for Iran. This scheme, he added, was initiated when the French supplied Iraq with Super Etendards and advanced Exocet missiles. From the very beginning, all these forces were collaborating, the Americans as well as the regional reaction who are paying for the cost of these armaments. It seems that they have even drawn the agreement of the Soviet Union as well, he said, further adding that in this stage too, there seems to be a coordination.

The Majlis speaker added, "Following the sessions they held in Baghdad they made some trips to important countries in this connection. They went to Japan, Greece and Netherlands, which trips were all made for particular reasons. The procedure too, betokens many things... attacks upon oil tankers passing through the Khark Island such as the Saudi ship, and recently they attacked Kuwaiti ships. From the Saudis' approach too, we could understand a lot. The Saudi oil minister, instead of protesting to Iraq for this act, reacted in favour of Iraq, saying Iraqi pilots could not recognize their targets from high altitude, thus putting the blame on shipping companies for sending their ships to the Khark Island... These statements of the Saudi oil minister are quite calculated... Alongside this scheme, we see that Lloyd's and other insurance companies have raised their insurance fee, which measure also is well calculated..."

Continuing on the subject the SDC spokesman said, "Under conditions that the world is at a critical stage because of the Persian Gulf issue, the United States, France, Britain and the Soviet Union are silent. News sources which make a ballyhoo for a minor issue, have kept reticence. These all betoken an all-out plot aimed at pressuring the Islamic Republic. Fortunately, we have already clarified our policy, and in today's session also we reviewed these stances and came to the conclusion that this policy is a proper policy, that is either the Persian Gulf will be safe for all or for no one. Of course if they had set out widely to make the Khark unsafe, our previous threat for closing the entrance of the

Persian Gulf would be carried out. But this time they have started slyly, and our policy too is to act such that other oil exporting countries would be deprived of oil as much as we would. This will be our policy, but before carrying out this policy, on behalf of the SDC, I declare to the world and particularly to the oil exporting countries that it is Iraq, its supporters and the regional reaction which have resorted to this adventurism. This crisis has been created by those who have supplied Iraq with advanced weapons.

"At first stage, we would like the Persian Gulf to remain safe and the situation of energy and fuel be normal in the world so that otherwise it would not result in crisis... We will not tolerate a difficult oil export in the Persian Gulf from the Khark Island, while other countries continued to easily export their oil..."

On the possibility of U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani said, "This possibility exists. From the very beginning of the war, we have always included this probability in our programs that in circumstances when our enemies are in a weak position and see that the trend of the war is proceeding in the interest of the Islamic Republic, they start some sort of attempts to internationalise and regionalise the war. Saddam has always wanted this and perhaps his recent adventurism is for this same reason.

"They first try to regionalise the war and then want it to be internationalised and our policy in both stages is to prevent the spread of the war to other countries, as we have done this so far. And the Americans have a record in history for resorting to such insanities (as military intervention). We are ready for that stage as well, and I think war for the Islamic Republic will be sweat [as received] the moment it is confronted with its main enemies. A part of this issue has been tried in Lebanon and I think it will be very difficult for the American nation to enter into a war thousands of kilometres farther and specially with a strong country like Iran. Of course it would be very costly for the U.S. to run the war in our borders which would be sweat [as received] for us though entailing some problems which we would tolerate..."

On Saddam Husayn's inclination, in his recent statements, towards the Soviet Union and his apparent criticism of the U.S., the imam's representative said it was propagandistic and hypocritical. "Now it is quite obvious that both the U.S. and the Soviet Union are supporting Saddam. How could it be possible for Saddam to be dissatisfied with the U.S. while the U.S. servants in the region such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Sudan and Egypt are supporting Iraq so much. Didn't Saddam admit himself that he had used the AWACS information? Would the Saudis give the information to Iraq without prior permission from the U.S.?"

Iraq Blamed for Attacks

LD161143 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpts] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, accompanied by Colonel Salimi, the defense minister, this morning visited the military factories and technical institutions of the industrial organization of the

Ministry of Defense, and talked to the workers and various officials of that organization. The Majlis speaker inspected most of the important sections of military industries, including the munitions factory, the factory for manufacturing various cannon shells, explosive weapons, and bullets.

He then took part in a meeting with the workers, employees, and experts of that organization and, while expressing his greetings on the blessed anniversary of the birthday of the mahdi, may God hasten his glad advent, he gave a speech about the jihad and uprising against the tyrants.

In his speech the Majlis speaker said: In the past, as we all know, the aliens would not allow our youths and experts to reveal their initiative and their talents.

Concerning the recent violations of the Iraqi regime, the representative of the imam in the Supreme Defense Council said: Recently the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, in order to frighten the oil shipping companies, attacked two ships whose owners provide Iraq's military expenses; and we witnessed the response of the reactionary regimes of the region in this connection who decided to keep their ships away from the Khark Island routes. Of course, we also announced that if the oil route of the Khark Island is not secure, then no other routes in the Persian Gulf would be secure; and we have the power to confront this conspiracy of the super-powers, too.

At the end, the Majlis speaker added: If, with God's help, we bring this war to a victorious conclusion, you may be sure that, despite shortcomings in many different areas, our nation would become a great historical example to other nations of the world. As God has promised: "If you assist God, he will assist you and will make your steps firm." [Koranic verse] You may be certain that God is with you and will help you.

Imperialism's Gulf 'Plots' Scored

LD151209 Tehran IRNA in English 1147 GMT 15 May 84

[Commentary]

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — For a long time imperialism has been trying to turn the Iraqi imposed war against the Islamic Republic into a regional conflict in order to as the expression goes "fish in troubled waters." It goes without saying that this plot's aim is to force Iran to expend itself on an expansive military, political and economic front, for which the enemy has since a long time ago paved the way for achieving this malicious aim.

Imperialism and its lackeys have constantly referred to the Iraqi imposed war as the "Gulf war" and have also tried to portray it as either a war between Arabs and non-Arabs or a conflict between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims.

No doubt, these propaganda sought to firstly confine the Islamic movement within Iranian borders and secondly, isolate the Islamic Republic from other Muslim nations, especially its neighbours. But, so far the results have been contrary to their expectations.

Although a number of misinformed sources as well as some of the lackey regimes which, mistakenly, see their interests in the preservation of the interests of Western and Eastern imperialism, are practically aiding the materialisation of such plots, however, this will ultimately be detrimental to the fate of their peoples.

Now that the Iraqi regime is breathing its last, imperialism and its subservients have started a new wave of adventurism in the Persian Gulf through which, by fanning the flames of chaos in this region, set the interest of their people on fire.

Baghdad regime's measure in attacking a number of oil tankers and disturbing security of the Persian Gulf's oil lanes, and the support of some regimes for this move, is a prelude to bringing about this turmoil, the architects of which are more other than Eastern and Western imperialism.

This conspiracy as well as the shady moves by the imperialism however, are not hidden from the officials of the Islamic Republic, and nor are those circles which are collaborating in such imperialist provocations in this strategic region.

In its recent statement, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that the objective of such a conspiracy was to disrupt the stability and security in the Persian Gulf, and its broader dimension to exacerbate the tension in the region, to deprive the Islamic Republic and regional nations of their legitimate and vital interests. The end result of such moves no doubt is aimed at preserving bases of imperialism in Iraq and other southern Persian Gulf states as well as continuation of imperialism's military hegemony in the region.

The statement, while disclosing these dangerous plots for the regional peoples and for the world progressive forces, also announced that the Islamic Republic would not tolerate disturbance of stability and security in the Persian Gulf region and would consequently confront any adventurism and destabilising acts on the part of the Iraqi regime, being backed by the U.S., in the region.

Because, security of the Persian Gulf is an inseparable part of vital interests of Iran and regional nations and any undermining of it, through plots of imperialism and Zionism, is in fact a clear violation of Iran's legitimate rights.

Conspiracies of imperialism in the Persian Gulf have various political, military and economic dimensions, through which the perpetrators believe that by exerting economic pressures they could expel our revolutionary people from the scene or could force Iran to abandon its legal rights.

But, they should realise that if free navigation in the Persian Gulf is disrupted, it would not merely affect the Islamic Republic, since Iran is able to tolerate bottlenecks which might be created in this respect, whereas, other regional countries could not stand such difficulties.

The Islamic Republic would not be the great loser in the event of such a conflict since its people have undergone various stages of hardship and have always supported the government. But, instead, those who would be the most affected are those who do

not have their people beside them and who do not have any access to agriculture and production facilities and are rather in need of importing their basic necessities.

Although the reality is very clear, still it is surprising why some people are thinking vainly and see their interests in the preservation of interests of imperialism and have intertwined their fate with that of the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn.

However, those regimes who are supporting international imperialism should await the wrath of the Muslim nations and should know that their measure would guarantee no future for them.

Friday Imams Congress Participants Visit Base, Abadan
LD160859 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Ahvaz, May 16, IRNA — Foreign guests participants in the second global congress of Friday prayers leaders inspected base of 'Ali ibn 'Ali Taleb 17th Division and Abadan, as well as Khorramshahr in South Iran.

The Friday prayers leaders were warmly welcomed by Iran's Islamic combatants when they gathered in the division's mosque there, where Sheikh Maher Hamud from Lebanon talked about necessity of unity among Muslims and high spirit of Islamic combatants.

Then the commander of the division, Ja'far Mostafa'i, talked about war fronts and objectives of the operations.

In Abadan and Khorramshahr they saw destructions resulted from Iraqi artillery attacks upon the cities.

Mujahed Abdulkarim from the United States, expressed happiness over victories of Islamic forces, and said that he would from now on campaign against the U.S. and its subservient Saddam (Iraqi ruler).

The guests left Khorramshahr from Ahvaz Tuesday evening.

Khomeyni Discusses Economic Issues, Elections
LD151238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] A group of employees of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and banks, and model farmers from all over the country, together with the ministers of finance and economic affairs and agriculture and reconstruction jihad, and the governor of the Central Bank met Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at Jamaran Mosque this morning.

During this meeting, referring to interest charges, which the Koran has called a declaration of war against God and the prophet, and the many tales related about prohibiting them, the imam of the nation said: If interest were charged in our banks and commerce, we could not say that ours is an Islamic Republic. The experts and the ulemas should note this and strive to free us from this problem.

Stressing the point that a good law should also have good executors, the leader of the revolution said: Now, when the big powers are casting their greedy eyes upon Iran, the executives in the judiciary, the Finance Ministry, banks, and in other positions should be committed to Islam. If we fail in any of those positions, our failure would carry over to other areas and disrupt the economy, agriculture, and commerce. That would be the day the big powers achieve their aims.

He added: While the stability of the Army and the Revolution Guards Corps depends on fighting well and advancing in the war, agricultural stability means the farmer must farm well, and the Finance Ministry and the bank depend on their personnel behaving well, there are also those who are corrupt and intent on causing trouble and dissatisfaction. It is possible for people who wish to turn the situation back to its previous state to infiltrate your ranks, to create dissatisfaction. You should be alert, so that the people leave the offices satisfied.

Reiterating the importance of the Majlis elections and the fact that everyone abroad has been expecting that the elections will not be implemented correctly, he said: If the Majlis is harmed, the Islamic Republic will be harmed. Therefore, the Majlis should be strong and well-backed, so that it can perform its task properly. That needs the people's participation in the election.

Addressing the people, he said: Unlike the past, when a list was prepared by the authorities to be sent out proclaiming who should be Majlis deputies, with no other choices, today you are in charge and no one has the right to interfere.

Referring to the God Almighty's emphasis on perseverance in the Houd chapter of the Koran, and to the prophet's saying that that chapter had aged him [as heard], the imam of the nation said: As our nation has risen to safeguard Islam, I hope that it perseveres to safeguard Islam, to make the prophet happy.

Urges Support for Council
LD151748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] On the eve of the second round of the elections for the Second Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majlis] the following message was issued by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It has been noticed that after the first round of elections for the Second Islamic Consultative Assembly, certain individuals who have not found the annulment or confirmation of the elections in some of the constituencies by the Council of Guardians to their liking have engaged in spreading rumors and have undermined or, God forbid, insulted the honorable members of the Council of Guardians, may God assist them, who are the protectors of the interests of Islam and the Muslims. They have also published statements in newspapers or delivered speeches in various gatherings, not knowing the consequences of creating hostile climates only a few years after the revolution. It is hoped that those who have committed such deeds have not been aware of its unfavorable and tragic consequences. It is not clear whether at the

beginning of the constitutional movement in the first Majlis the *foqaha* [jurisconsults] who were supervising the laws were treated in the same way. At that time, the *foqaha* were gradually forced out of the Majlis, and they did to this nation what we experienced.

I warn these gentlemen that weakening and insulting the *foqaha* and the Council of Guardians is full of danger for the country and Islam. Deviations always gradually creep into a regime and at the end bring about the downfall of that regime.

It is essential that all of us pay emphatic attention to the issues of Islam and the Muslims, and that we respect the laws even if they are very much contrary to our personal views and tastes, and to remain faithful to this young republic which is attacked by various powers and superpowers.

At the end, I should say that I have chosen the honorable *foqaha* of the Council of Guardians with knowledge and familiarity, and that I believe that it is necessary to respect them and to have due regard for their status.

I hope that such things will not be repeated. I also remind the Council of Guardians to be firm in their work, and to act decisively and carefully and rely on Almighty God.

I beseech God Almighty for His grace and bounty to this beloved nation.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Condemns Usurious Banking Practices

LD152143 Tehran IRNA in English 1933 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, today called on Finance and Economic Minister Namazi and officials in charge of the new revised banking system in Iran to ensure a sound administration of an interest-free banking system in Iran as a principal requirement for an Islamic statehood.

The imam, who was talking to visiting finance minister and governor of Bank Markazi (Central Bank) of Iran and a mixed group of bank workers, Finance Ministry staffers and farmers from the various parts of the country, reminded that Iran's foreign enemies hate to witness the enactment of Islamic nonusurious banking and finance laws in Iran since the new revised laws would, in the long run, jeopardize the interests of international bankers and financiers who pocket huge amounts of money solely in terms of interest from their investments. He added that once the new revised banking system in Iran is successfully established it [is] natural that it may be copied by some other Muslim states, which development would bring to an end the Islamically illegal gains of world bankers in the banks of the region. The following is a translation from the text of the imam's speech to the group of visiting people at the Jamaran Mosque of Tehran.

I should like to thank all of you gentlemen for having come here for this meeting and I hope you are all men doing well in whatsoever capacity and in what office you hold throughout our

country and also hope you are successful in serving a nation which is under attacks from all global powers.

May I first say a few words about our farmers, by reminding you that in any country such as ours, farmers form the mainstay of the nation. Iran is primarily an agrarian country with large stretches of lands. That which is plentiful in our country and equally rich is our human resources. But nonetheless, as long as we have not grown self-sufficient in agricultural production, as long as we are stretching our hands to foreigners and as long as we abjectly beg from others — even though we pay for it — we have truly remained dependent upon them.

Our dear farmers are capable of ridding our nation from the scourge of dependence upon foreign suppliers in their own spheres. Let them consider their efforts for that cause as efforts taken in the performance of a religious ritual. And truly it is one form of worship of God, a religious ritual.

Islam has placed emphasis on agriculture so much so that in their lifetime some of our imams would regularly supervise farm workers and would perhaps personally contribute to agricultural production. We have a responsibility to promote this aspect of our activities towards an eventual self-sufficiency. It is a responsibility to be shouldered equally by the government and by our agricultural workers, a responsibility to improve the agricultural state of our country.

In the past and during the shah's reign you would probably work listlessly and with little enthusiasm. Why? Because you readily noticed that the result of your toil was exploited for wrongful purposes. But today the table has turned over. Now you work in the interest of Islam and are serving for a divine cause. For all these reasons I ask our farm workers to work diligently in agricultural production and once and for all make it unnecessary for us to stretch an asking hand to others.

As for our banking system, I need hardly remind you of the urgency of a radical change in the traditional banking systems in this country, in default of which we would be rightly considered as waging a war against God and his prophet for our engagement in giving and accepting interest and for conducting a usurious banking system in our country.

Such evaluation as declaring an act to be so grave as to signify an open hostility to God and to prophet is rarely seen elsewhere and in relation with other vices in Islam. And even then we have a tradition and in quite unequivocal terms which forewarns Muslims against the borrowing or lending of money with an interest charge for its use. Some assert that the giving or accepting of any money as interest even though it may be a farthing is considered a sin and a crime graver than committing incest. We cannot possibly raise our heads and claim to have an Islamic statehood, if and when, God forbid, we should continue to adhere to traditional usurious practices in our banking system or in our business transactions. We cannot then claim our government to be an Islamic entity.

It is the gravity of the issue which calls for the formulation of substitute and remedial policies by our devoted specialists in conjunction with our members of the ulema. They must work

conscientiously in a bid to save us from this plight. And likewise, with sufficient prudence our people, too, must remember at all times that the Holy Koran condemns usury as an act tantamount to taking arms in a war against the Lord and his prophet.

Should a banking system, such as is the practice in other parts of the world, become a mode of banking in this country, it will deter people from any productive activity in industries and in vocations, or other fruitful enterprises. They shall then content themselves with retiring to their homes and making their money in the bank do the (?working) for them, whereas, money must not be gainfully employed to generate money by itself.

Then you readily see that a fundamental change in our conventional banking practices is a principal task ahead of us, as is the improvement of our economy and taxation system and of our other activities. There are tasks which have to be tackled by the Majlis and to which these tasks are obviously assigned, and likewise there are tasks which must be tackled by our Council of Guardians. Once the two of them have done their share of their duties, the execution of their acts is then entrusted upon the executive branch of the government, which in its own right has a crucial role to fulfill.

It is likely that good laws will become bad laws when they are poorly practiced by the executive branch — which often seems to be the case. Today, obviously the body of our laws are "Islamic," but insofar as relates to the word and spirit of the laws, even during the pre-revolution era, they might formulate some good law insofar as its wording and its purpose was concerned, only to be turned into odious laws in the hands of a bunch of treacherous people who would act out of private motives, or who would perhaps accept bribes to stain even further the visage of the laws in their country. Today, in contrast, you must be inspired by Islamic incentives. As soon as you decide to stand firmly against the big powers which have been challenging our nation, and which have fixed their eyes upon our nation making no secret of their intention, you must ensure that our government administrators, be they involved with our judicial system, or with our banking operations, are self-committed Muslims, consciously aware of the danger of passing to other organs of the government the contagion of the selling of principles. Once listlessness takes hold we are sure to encounter constant setbacks in each and every sphere of our activities only to find ourselves — in the long run — facing a chaotic situation throughout our nation. And once the administration of our finance, and of our banking and agriculture and of our other enterprises shows an about-face from the dictates of Islam, then the situation will signal an imminent victory of our arch-enemies.

Today you observe enmity by all foreign powers just because you are bent on doing according to the dictates of Islam. They are challenging you because they regard your policies as running counter to their own ambitions. The idea of a banking and finance system free from usury has grave implications to your foreign enemies. Why? Because, once the new system gets fully established here and once it is adopted by other Muslim states then it would mean a threat to the ambitious goals of international bankers who are after reaping profits in the four corners of the world. The Islamic banking system would mean an end to the undue profits pocketed by your foreign enemies, and that is why

they are opposed to such systems. But, likewise we must be self-confident and persist upon the course of action we have adopted.

So I enjoin you all to remain steadfast in your commitments rather than waver in your position. You must perpetuate the struggle which you have started against your enemies. It is a struggle by you and against all enemies of Islam, and against the superpowers. And perpetuate you will, by consecrating yourself to the task which you have assumed in whatsoever capacity you are...you must ensure to do solely that which is good and Islamic even though you should find a whole world of mankind going the wrong way, because of a wrongful act by others — no matter how many — will not justify your doing of the same act...[sentence as received]

Permit me to say only a few words, by way of transition, about the upcoming second phase of the Majlis elections...I am confident that as our people took to the polls during the earlier elections, so will they in their forthcoming elections and that they will dismay our foreign enemies who have been stepping up a global and hostile propaganda against the Islamic Republic claiming that our people have lost their initial enthusiasm about the Islamic system of government....

I hope our people will stand firmly as they have done so to this date for safeguarding Islam, and hope the Almighty will prosper [as received] you all in the conduct of your work, and that we will continue to serve the cause of Islam, that the hands of treacherous people will be cut off from our country and that we will bring this on-going war to a triumphant end....

Prime Minister Musavi on Freeing Regional Peoples *LD160827 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 16 May 84*

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said here Tuesday that at present the Islamic Revolution was in a position and ready to break the shackles of reaction and subservency in the region and thus free the regional peoples.

Four years ago, the prime minister noted, big powers determined that the Islamic Revolution should be suppressed, otherwise it would threaten their interests. Therefore, he added, they imposed a war on Iran but failed to anticipate the devotion and resistance of a nation which had inclined towards God.

The prime minister was speaking to a group of families of the martyrs of Shemiran, the members of the basij (mobilisation) forces of Karaj here Tuesday afternoon.

The Islamic Republic, in spite of the disagreement of the superpowers, had still lived up with its policy of neither East nor West, and had convinced the oppressed throughout the world that they could be victorious if they preserved unity and struggled with oppression.

He referred to the existing unity of the government and the people, stressing that it was due to the same unity that the government could stand against all big powers.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,727

*LD151734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
15 May 84*

[Communique No 1,727 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday in the northwestern operational sector the Islamic combatants fully controlled their own defensive positions and inflicted substantial losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces with heavy artillery fire. In the (Chuman Mostafa) region our forces fired on enemy vehicles, thereby restricting the movements of the latter. Our own ambush and patrol groups, while carrying out the tasks entrusted to them, clashed with a number of enemy patrols, and the Iraqi forces fled after suffering casualties.

In the western operational sector our fighting units' fire on the enemy's positions and supply roads demolished two enemy trucks carrying servicemen, three observation posts, and eight trenches and foxholes of the aggressors.

In the southern operational sector the Islamic combatants' continuous fire neutralized enemy patrol and observation activities and disrupted their engineering and supply operations. Observed casualties suffered by the aggressors in the area totaled 30 killed or wounded, and their losses amounted to the destruction of four mortars.

In the sector west of the Arvand Rud two trucks carrying servicemen, one command jeep, two observation posts and 12 enemy trenches of various types were set ablaze and destroyed.

Yesterday sporadic long-range fire from enemy weapons on certain residential areas of Abadan damaged nine houses.

Gendarmerie Commander Inspects Units in Bushehr

*GF121559 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT
12 May 84*

[Interview with Gendarmerie Commander Colonel 'Ali Kuchakzadeh, at Bushehr airport by unidentified Voice and Vision correspondent, no date given — recorded]

[Excerpts][Correspondent] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Colonel Kuchakzadeh, the commander of Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Bushehr before noon today. Would you please tell us the aim of your trip to Bushehr?

[Kuchakzadeh] The reason for my trip to Bushehr region is to meet the dear people who live here and also to review the activities of the area. You are aware that we set up shore units late last year in both Bushehr and Changan, and I am here to visit these areas. We will also visit our brothers and officials here and attend a session.

[Correspondent] With respect to your remarks, can you tell us what measures have been taken to strengthen shore units and the Gendarmerie forces?

[Kuchakzadeh] We have several programs with respect to our shore units. One is the issue of the sea. As you are aware, the Gendarmerie brothers are responsible for the 3-mile limit. They can carry out their duties when they have boats and frigates. This is part of our plan and, God willing, we will implement it this year with the help of all our brothers. The other thing is to strengthen our forces on land, and in this respect we are planning to increase both our manpower and our logistics, God willing, this year and thus bring our shore units to the point so that it can be positively effective.

[Correspondent] Thank you. I wish you success.

[Kuchakzadeh][Words indistinct] Thank you.

Commander Tours Dashti District

*GF140630 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT
13 May 84*

[Text] Colonel Kuchakzadeh, commander of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran who is now touring Bushehr, paid a visit yesterday to Dashti District accompanied by the commander and the head of the political ideological section of the Bushehr unit of the Gendarmerie. He inspected the Gendarmerie unit at Khormowj and held talks with the personnel there about their problems.

Later, in a meeting with the governor and officers of the Khormowj Gendarmerie, he discussed their problems. He then called on the Friday imam of Khormowj at his residence and held talks with him. The Gendarmerie commander then inspected the border posts of (Pol-e Man), Khaki, and Abdan.

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, the Gendarmerie commander this morning joined in the magnificent morning ceremony of the military and administrative personnel in Bandar-e Kangan which was held at the headquarters of the Gendarmerie of this city. In this ceremony, Mr Zamanian, the governor general, the commander and the political ideological head of the Bushehr Gendarmerie unit, the governor and the commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and coastal battalion of Kangan and the administrative head of the Ministry of Interior were also present. After the special morning ceremony, Colonel Kuchakzadeh praised the heroic deeds of the Gendarmerie at the fronts of the imposed war and on the vast borders of our Islamic homeland. He particularly praised them for their brave confrontations with smugglers and counterrevolutionary groups. He also referred to the widescale operations of the Gendarmerie along with other Islamic combatants in their clashes with the counterrevolutionary groups in Kordestan and said that the groups had taken Kordestan for their own, but with the grace of God and the guidance of Imam Khomeyni and the efforts of all the combatants of Islam who, shoulder to shoulder with each other, participated in the crushing of the counterrevolutionaries, this Islamic province has been turned into a base for the oppressed in the war against the world oppressors.

In conclusion he referred to the present sensitive situation and said: Today we have to be alert to the widespread plots of the world oppressors against the Islamic Revolution. Our alertness